

for retaining the carbon brush in a retracted position against a force exerted by the spring element,

wherein the retaining element is slidably supported by the base plate in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of a carbon brush mounted in the brush guide, whereby the retaining element is movable between a first position in which the carbon brush may be retained by the retaining element, and a second position in which the carbon brush may be released by the retaining element.

20. (Amended) Apparatus in accordance with claim 18, wherein the base plate includes a guide substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the carbon brush which slidably receives the retaining element, the retaining element being supported by a spring element against the base plate.

22. (Amended) Apparatus in accordance with claim 18, wherein the retaining element comprises a pin or cylindrical extension on a side of the retaining element that faces a carbon brush which is mounted in the brush holder, and wherein, upon retraction of the carbon brush, the pin or extension becomes engaged in a recess in the carbon brush.

24. (Amended) Apparatus in accordance with claim 23, wherein the retaining element comprises a first, outer section that runs along a side wall extending from an outer edge of the ground wall or an intermediate wall of the base plate and

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surrounding it, with the first section crossing over into a center section that runs perpendicular to the first section, from which the extension extends, and from which, on an opposite side, a second section extends, which fits into the guide which extends outwardly from the base.

28. (Amended) Base plate for at least one carbon brush comprising at least one brush guide,

the brush guide comprising a U-shaped metal element having a center leg extending along a top wall of a carbon brush mounted in the at least one brush guide and lateral legs extending perpendicular to the center leg along side walls of a carbon brush mounted in the brush guide, the lateral legs ending in outer sections which run at least in part parallel to a ground wall of the base plate or an intermediate wall extending parallel to the ground wall, which penetrate the ground wall or intermediate wall and which are attached to a surface of the ground wall or intermediate wall that faces away from a carbon brush mounted in the brush holder, running opposite to the brush guide.

30. (Amended) Base plate in accordance with claim 28, wherein the outer sections comprise a first portion that extends along the ground wall or intermediate wall and a second portion which extends through the ground wall or intermediate wall.

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Please cancel claims 29 and 32 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

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